



February 6, 2022

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

Parish Schedule

Feb. 5 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
+Jacqeline Sysyn req of Michael & Shirley Andreyko

Feb. 6 (Sun) SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
For our Parish Family

Feb. 12 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
+Steve & Agnes Babich req by Andy Babich

Feb. 13 (Sun) SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Margaret Ferencz req by Kevin & Karen Ianni

Our Tithe to our Parish - January 30, 2022 - \$1,263.00

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Feb. 6 thru Feb. 12 for the deceased of our parish. *“Eternal Memory”*



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Tillie Abraham, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar, Monica Boggs, Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni, Fr. John Petro, Ted Race, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

NO FASTING THIS WEEK

In addition to all the times of fasting according to the Byzantine Tradition (and they do seem to come around pretty often, don't they!), there are also some *fast-free* weeks. Yes, even the Byzantine Church relaxes a bit at times!

This week of the Publican and Pharisee is one of those weeks. There is no fasting this week, even on Friday ... There are different reasons given for this, but one of the most common is that we cannot boast as did the Pharisee that I fast *all* the time.

So, do enjoy your favorite foods on Friday, even the meats from which we normally abstain.



Tax time is drawing near. If you would like your total donation amount for the year 2021, please drop a note in the collection basket. Also, please specify if you would like to pick it up or would you like it to be mailed.

Bulletin Announcement to our Parishioners

Our parish has been fortunate to have Seminarian Joshua assisting with the liturgical duties on Sundays. The seminarians are assigned to parishes only once per month on Sunday mornings, but Seminarian Joshua has chosen to make St. Stephen the parish of record for him and his family (wife Regina and three-year old twin daughters Ana and Linnea) which means they attend more frequently. He is in his first year at the seminary and his family is from Tucson, Arizona.



On January 19, Joshua and Regina welcomed a new baby, Xenia Josefina. In celebration of this new arrival, our parish will be taking a collection for the family. During the next couple of weekends, you can place any contributions in the basket in an envelope marked "Special Collection" on the front. If the gift is by check, please make it payable to Joshua Johnson. Please do not make it payable to St. Stephen. In addition, there will be a special collection box in the education wing if you also would like to give a gift to baby Xenia.

Xenia is going to be baptized at St. Stephen and details will be made available.

Thank you,

Fr. John and the Parish Advisory Committee

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

The story of the Publican and the Pharisee is well known to most of us.

It tells us of two people who went to the Temple to pray. One boasted to God about all that he does concerning his religious duties. The other simply bows his head and asks for forgiveness.

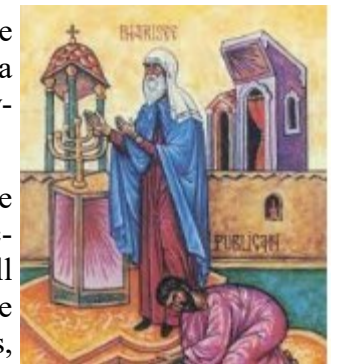
It is really the story of two attitudes.

Whether we are speaking about our attitude towards God ... or our attitude towards others ... it is pretty much the same ... since we are the same person in both situations.

The attitude of the Pharisee ... was one of boasting and being quite proud of all that he did. In fact, the Pharisee *did* many things. He prayed ... he fasted ... he was generous with his money. But, by doing all these things so well ... he felt *complacent and self-satisfied*.

His attitude was one of trusting in himself. God had to be good to him because he felt that he was good to God. In a word, he did not *need* God. He really did not need anyone.

The Publican, on the other hand, knew quite well that he was a sinner. He had nothing to boast about. But, he recognized his neediness. He could open himself ... in all humility ... and recognize his need for God. And we are told that he went home justified and at peace ... whereas, the Pharisee did not.



What about us ... who attend church regularly ... who seek to pray and fast and be generous ... do we also recognize our need for God ... our inner insufficiency?

The first stage of our repentance and renewal is our recognition of our need for God. When we recognize this need ... the gates of God's mercy are indeed open to us.